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Letter dated 10 August 2004 from the Chargé d' affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the Plan of Action signed on 5 August 2004 by Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the Sudan, and Jan Pronk, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Sudan (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer B. **Manis**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 10 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Secretary-General

Darfur Plan of Action

5 August 2004

Objective

The objective is to create conditions for the restoration of peace, security, stability and development in Darfur. To this end, the Government of the Sudan commits itself to the following action plan to provide early indications to the international community that they have made positive progress in compliance with Security Council resolution 1556 (2004), by the original deadline of 30 August 2004 and with the commitments in the United Nations-Government of the Sudan communiqué of 3 July 2004. Whilst it is acknowledged that the Government of the Sudan may not be able to fulfil all the requirements of resolution 1556 (2004) by this deadline, there are several actions that they can take now to demonstrate commitment to comply.

The following action plan has been drawn up in the light of discussions and suggestions made at the second meeting of the Joint Implementation Mechanism chaired from the Sudanese side by Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and from the United Nations side by Jan Pronk, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, on 2 August 2004.

Actions

1. **Identity and secure safe areas**. The Government of the Sudan would identify parts of Darfur that can be made secure and safe within 30 days. This could include existing camps of internally displaced persons and areas around certain towns and villages with a high concentration of local population. The Government of the Sudan should then provide secure routes to and between these areas. These tasks should be carried out by the Sudan police forces to maintain confidence already created by the redeployment of the Government of the Sudan armed forces. This will allow people to reach the areas initially and also conduct business essential to life support such as:

- Movement to and from water/food sources
- Tend to animals
- Work on their land

This can be achieved by a number of means that could include:

- Establishing static defences around towns/camps
- Checkpoints on relevant routes
- Providing escorts to convoys

2. **Control activities of the Government of the Sudan armed forces**. All offensive military operations by the Government of the Sudan armed forces in the proposed safe areas would cease immediately. This includes any offensive actions against rebel groups. The Government of the Sudan armed forces will also exercise restraint and avoid retaliation against rebel activities notwithstanding their right of self-defence. They will then by redeployed in such a way that they are not in direct contact with the camps and the civilians. This will demonstrate political will and help build confidence among the local population.

3. **Control and restrain activities by rebel groups**. In accordance with the ceasefire agreement, the Government of the Sudan will ask the rebel groups participating in the Darfur peace talks immediately to cease offensive military operations in the proposed safe areas. The Government of the Sudan expects that the African Union and other international partners will pressure the rebel groups to fully maintain the current ceasefire and lay down their weapons. These weapons could later be collected as part of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

4. **Control and restrain activities by armed militias**. The Government of the Sudan would identify and declare those militias over whom it has influence and instruct them to cease their activities forthwith and lay down their weapons. These weapons could later be collected as part of an agreed disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme which would include disarming the rebels and other armed militias.

5. **Agreement on military observers**. The Government of the Sudan would invite the Ceasefire Commission to monitor and report on the observance of the above commitments.

6. **Demonstrate political commitment to peace talks**. The Government of the Sudan would make an unequivocal declaration of commitment to start the Darfur peace talks as soon as possible in any venue to be proposed by the African Union. They will renew their commitment to bringing these talks to a successful and speedy conclusion, in order to ensure security and to take away the root causes of the conflict. The Government of the Sudan expects the Security Council and the African Union to pressure the rebels to do likewise.

7. The Government of the Sudan would request support from the African Union and the League of Arab States to assist in resolving the crisis by providing financial and logistic resources as well as monitors.

8. **Request support from other partners in the international community**. The Government of the Sudan would request, through the United Nations, provision of financial and logistic resources as necessary to meet the tasks outlined above within the timeline agreed in Security Council resolution 1556 (2004).

9. The Government of the Sudan would sign an agreement with the International Organization for Migration to oversee and assist in the voluntary return of the internally displaced persons to their homes. The Government of the Sudan confirms its policy of no involuntary return.

10. The Government of the Sudan will engage local leaders; it will hold a conference to seek their help in building confidence and take more responsibility in security, administration and in resolving disputes.

11. The Government of the Sudan shall maintain and further improve the humanitarian situation of the population in Darfur with the support of the international community. To this end the Government of the Sudan commits itself to extending the fast-track procedure regarding access until July 2005.

12. The Government of the Sudan will start talks with community leaders and others with the aim of establishing a commission for rehabilitation, recovery, development and reconciliation in Darfur.

(*Signed*) Mustafa Osman **Ismail**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
For the Government of the Republic of the Sudan

(*Signed*) Jan **Pronk**
Special Representative of the Secretary-General
For the United Nations